

From: GREEN, Damian
To: Kerry Bethel
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2005 6:19 PM
Subject: Wye Development

Thank you for your email. I now how much concern the proposals have caused in Wye, and of course understand why--it will be the biggest change to the village in its history, if it happens to the full extent envisaged. I should say that I have not said "The people of Wye will have to come to terms with it", as you quote. I said it is "a challenge for the people of Wye to come to terms with", which as you see is making a completely different point.

On the issue of the future of the College, I am afraid that no other academic institution has shown an interest in keeping land-based courses going. So the college buildings, and even more importantly the land owned by Imperial, would be up for commercial or institutional use. One way or another the planning authorities would be faced with demand for the use of this land, and at the moment it seems to me that the Imperial proposals are a creative response which could create huge opportunities for Wye and the surrounding areas.

There are clearly a huge number of matters both of principle and of detail to be discussed before anything happens on this proposal. I am sure we will both be fully involved in those discussions.

Damian Green